

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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SUBJECT:POLITICAL YOUTH LEADER EXCHANGE

REF: HACKER MEMCON ON POLISH-AMERICAN YOUTH LEADER EXCHANGES

SEPT. 26, 1974

1. AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL) HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY JERZY SKURATOWICZ, A POLISH FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, RE POSSIBILITY OF INITIATING YOUTH LEADER EXCHANGES WITH THE POLISH SOCIALIST YOUTH UNION (ZMS). SKURATOWICZ HAD LETTER FROM ZMS AUTHORIZING HIM TO NEGOTIATE ON ITS BEHALF, FOLLOWING UP ACYPL APPROACH LAST FALL TO POLISH EMBASSY (REFMEMCON). ACYPL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPENCER OLIVER INFORMED DEPT HE IS PREPARED TO SEND

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ACYPL FOUR-PERSON DELEGATION TO POLAND IN SEPTEMBER FOR

INITIAL EXCHANGE, IF DEPT (CU) FUNDING IS ASSURED.

2. WE RAISED WITH OLIVER POSSIBILITY OF HIS DELEGATION PROCEEDING FROM POLAND TO ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA ON SAME TRIP, SPENDING ONE WEEK IN EACH OF THE THREE COUNTRIES FOR EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH POLITICAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS RE FUTURE EXCHANGES.

3. ACYPL WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1966 BY YOUNG REPUBLICANS AND YOUNG DEMOCRATS WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

FOR INTERCHANGE BETWEEN US AND FOREIGN POLITICAL LEADERS AT EARLY STAGE IN THEIR CAREERS. WITH CU FUNDING, IT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING YOUTH EXCHANGES WITH WESTERN EUROPE, EAST ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE SOVIET UNION FOR PAST FIVE YEARS, IN WHICH SOME 450 INDIVIDUALS HAVE PARTICIPATED. ACYPL HAS SINCE 1971 CONDUCTED VERY USEFUL EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS AND BI-LATERAL SEMINARS WITH USSR COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (CYO), WHICH HAS BROUGHT TO U.S. MANY TOP KOMSOMOL LEADERS.

4. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM DEPT WHETHER THEY CONCUR IN ACYPL DIRECT APPROACH TO THEIR POLITICAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, AND CU FUNDING OF PROPOSED EXCHANGES. IF RESPONSES ARE FAVORABLE, ACYPL INITIATIVES WOULD BE MADE THROUGH EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON.

5. EMBASSIES MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RELATIVE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF CONDUCTING THESE EXCHANGES UNDER DEPT'S INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP) OR ACYPL. UNDER IVP, EMBASSIES WOULD HAVE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN CONTACTS WITH LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (ALTHOUGH UNDER SOVIET PROGRAM, EMBASSY MOSCOW AND DEPT HAVE ALSO BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED, AND LIAISON WITH ACYPL HAS BEEN GOOD). ALSO, UNDER IVP, DEPT HAS GREATER ROLE IN PROGRAMS IN US FOR VISITING DELEGATIONS WHICH ARE ARRANGED THROUGH CU CONTRACT AGENCIES.

6. ACYPL HAS SEVERAL ADVANTAGES. THERE IS A DIRECT CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN POLITICAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, WITHOUT DIRECT EMBASSY AND DEPT ROLE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAUSE THE EXCHANGES ARE FUNDED BY A CU GRANT TO ACYPL, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION IN DEPT AND EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY, WITH RESULTING SAVINGS IN TIME, EFFORT, AND FUNDS. ACYPL HAS NETWORK OF MEMBERS THROUGHOUT US WHO ARE ACTIVE IN STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS, WHO ACT AS LOCAL SPONSORS FOR VISITING DELEGATIONS, AND WHO HAVE THE POLITICAL CONNECTIONS TO ARRANGE HIGH LEVEL LOCAL VISITS. MOST IMPORTANT, BASED ON ACYPL-CYO EXPERI-

ENCE, WE BELIEVE EE POLITICAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE DEALING WITH ACYPL THAN WITH USG REPRESENTATIVES. ON DISADVANTAGE SIDE, ACYPL PROGRAMS IN US, WHILE STRONG ON LOCAL POLITICAL CONTACTS, DO NOT MEET OVERALL US OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS PROGRAMS ARRANGED BY CU PROGRAM AGENCIES. WE ARE, HOWEVER, WORKING TO IMPROVE THIS, AND BILL PRYCE (CU/EE), WHO WILL BE VISITING WARSAW AND BELGRADE THIS MONTH, CAN PROVIDE DETAILS.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES' VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. SUGGEST PROPOSED EXCHANGES BE INCLUDED IN CPP, WHETHER DECISION IS IN FAVOR OF EITHER IVP OR ACYPL APPROACH. INGERSOLL

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